

REMARKS

Considering the matters raised in the Office Action in the same order as raised, the Abstract has been objected to on several different grounds. An amended Abstract fully in accordance with the requirements of MPEP § 608.01(b) is submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

Claim 6 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because the claim depends from two different parent claims. Claim 6 has been amended to overcome this objection by incorporating the subject matter of one of the claims therein.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been objected to because of certain informalities. These informalities have been attended to in the amended versions of claims 3, 4 and 6 now presented. In particular, the word "means" has been treated as a singular noun in the new versions of the claims in question and the phrase "the or each" has been eliminated in these claims.

Claims 1 to 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being "indefinite." The claims have been amended so as to overcome the objections raised.

Briefly considering these objections, the phrases "for example" and "of the type comprising" are not used in the claims presented. Further, antecedent basis has been provided for each of the terms set forth in the claims now presented. In addition, as indicated above, the phrase "the or each" is no longer used in the claims.

Claims 1 to 8 have also been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being "incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connection." Although it is respectfully submitted that the specific objections raised here do not actually involve the omission of "essential structural cooperative relationships of elements," each of the objections raised has been attended to in drafting the claims now presented.

Briefly considering the objections raised, the phrase "characterized in that it comprises" is no longer used in the claims. Further, the phrase "actuating device" is no longer used in the preamble of claims 2 to 4.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, as indicated above, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 9 and claim 6 has been amended so as to properly depend from claim 9. Claim 9 is an independent claim directed to a seat while claim 6 is a dependent claim also directed to a seat.

With respect to claims 7 and 8, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 10. Claim 10 is directed to a set of seats and claim 8, which is also directed to a set of seats, has been made to properly depend from claim 10.

It is respectfully submitted that, with the changes discussed above, the claims presented are fully in accordance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Finally, the prior art cited by the Examiner has been considered but because the Examiner "has not rejected any claims against any cited prior arts due to the matter stated above for 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection to claims 1-8 and the objection to claims as stated above," it is not believed necessary to comment on this prior art at this point.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 5, 2003

By: Ross F. Hunt, Jr.
Registration No.: 24082

LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC • 1199 North Fairfax St. • Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 739-4900

ATTACHMENT A
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

B1 1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device (22, 24)~~ A device for actuating a seat element, of the ~~typesaid device~~ comprising:

[[~~-~~]] an actuator ~~(26, 28)~~ equipped with ~~including~~ a transducer ~~(42)~~ designed to supply ~~for supplying~~ a crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) representing ~~the~~ a current position of the actuator,

~~characterized in that it comprises:~~

[[~~-~~]] means ~~(80, 84)~~ for the calculation of ~~calculating~~ a corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) supplied by the transducer, and ~~of~~ calculating a refining correction function; and

[[~~-~~]] processing means ~~(86)~~ for processing said corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuating~~ A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising:

[[~~-~~]] means ~~(92)~~ for logging at least two crude reference measurement values (P_{1ue1} , P_{1ue2}), each representing ~~the~~ a position of the actuator for an identified reference position of the actuator;

[[~~-~~]] means ~~(94)~~ for the input of ~~inputting~~ a theoretical reference value (P_{cal1} , P_{cal2}) for each said identified reference position of the actuator; and

[[~~-~~]] means ~~(92)~~ for the establishment of ~~establishing~~, from said at least two logged crude reference measurement values (P_{1ue1} , P_{1ue2}) and from the corresponding theoretical reference values (P_{cal1} , P_{cal2}), ~~of~~ said refining correction function for calculating the corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) supplied by the transducer.

BI
Cont'd.

3. (Currently Amended) ActuatingA device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said means ~~(92) for the establishment of~~ for establishing the refining correction function ~~are designed to establish~~establishes said refining correction function from only two crude reference measurement values.

4. (Currently Amended) ActuatingA device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said processing means comprises means ~~(96) for the continuous comparison of~~continuously comparing said corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator with at least ~~two~~one predetermined threshold value, and pilot control means ~~(86) designed to generate~~for generating a pilot control command as a function of ~~the result of the or each comparisons~~said comparing.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) SeatA seat according to claim 59, ~~characterized in that it comprises at least one moveable element (18, 20) associated mechanically with an actuating device (22, 24) according to claim 4, in that it~~wherein the processing means of said at least one actuating device comprises means for continuously comparing said corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator with at least one predetermined threshold value, and pilot control means for generating a pilot control command as a function of said comparing and the seat further comprises a device (50) designed to bringfor bringing the seat into at least one predetermined configuration ~~under the action of~~responsive to a single command supplied by ~~the~~a user, ~~and in that the or each~~the at least one predetermined threshold value ~~represents the~~representing a position of the associated actuator in a predetermined configuration of the seat.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) SetA set of seats according to claim 710, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said seats are arranged side by side.

32 9. (New) A seat comprising at least one moveable seat element, and at least one actuating device comprising:

an actuator including a transducer for supplying a crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) representing a current position of the actuator,

means for calculating a corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) supplied by the transducer, and calculating a refining correction function; and

processing means for processing said corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator,

said at least one actuating device being associated mechanically with the at least one seat element for providing displacement of the at least one seat element.

10. (New) A set of seats comprising at least two seats of a similar structure each comprising at least one moveable seat element and at least one actuating device comprising:

an actuator including a transducer for supplying a crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) representing a current position of the actuator,

means for calculating a corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) supplied by the transducer, and calculating a refining correction function; and

processing means for processing said corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator,

said at least one actuating device being associated mechanically with the at least one seat element of each of said at least two seats for providing displacement of the at least one seat element, and said actuating device further comprising:

means for logging at least two crude reference measurement values (P_{1ue1} , P_{1ue2}) each representing a position of the actuator for an identified reference position of the actuator;

means for inputting a theoretical reference value (P_{cal1} , P_{cal2}) for each said identified reference position of the actuator; and

B2
amt 1

means for establishing, from said at least two logged crude reference measurement values (P_{1ue1} , P_{1ue2}) and from corresponding theoretical reference values (P_{cal1} , P_{cal2}), said refining correction function for calculating the corrected value (P_{corr}) of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value (P_{1ue}) supplied by the transducer,

the reference positions of each of the actuators of the respective actuating devices of each of the seats being identical.

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

LABINAL

Device for actuating a seat element and seat

Comprising it

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The A device (22, 24) for actuating a seat element comprises an actuator (26, 28) equipped with a transducer designed to supply a crude measurement value representing the current position of the actuator. ~~It comprises:~~

_____ means (80, 84) The actuator provides for the calculation of a corrected value of the current position of the actuator, from each crude measurement value supplied by the transducer, and calculation of a refining correction function; ~~and~~
_____ means (86) The device also provides for processing ~~said~~ the corrected value of the current position of the actuator.

Figure ~~1~~.